

Takoma Park Committee on the Environment
September 12, 2006

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

COE members:
Catherine Tunis
Robert Goo
Albert Nunez
Tim Male
Kea Woodruff

Public Works Director Daryl Brathwaite
Takoma Park citizen Jonathan Wrotny

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

Albert discussed the idea of meeting with local businesses regarding energy efficiency. Two main groups in TP are the Old Town Business Association and the CDA. Daryl thinks the first step should be to find out whether business owners or utility companies are in “control” of energy use and choices. Daryl will email Albert contact info for the two main business groups.

Sarah Daines might have a database of businesses if anyone wants a contact list for gauging interest.

Catherine will contact the EnergyStar program once Albert has potential dates and can attend meetings with Albert if he is able to set up appointments with local contacts. Catherine asked about landlord involvement; Albert suggested we address landlords separately at a later date.

Catherine also shared an email from a Columbia Union College student interested in climate change issues. Albert will contact the student as well.

Catherine would like other ideas in which COE can collaborate with the City, and suggested tree plantings along New Hampshire Ave. as agreed to in our 1999 Climate Change Action Plan. Robert mentioned a new federal restoration program that might have available funding. Robert and Catherine will contact the State Highway Administration regarding a tree planting proposal.

Kea gave an update on attempting to build a new COE website. The City site is not set up in a way to host COE, but they would like general information from us to use on their own site. Someone from COE can attempt to build a site, or we can hire someone to set a site up for us. There was general agreement that we should hire someone to set up our

site. Daryl believed that three quotes would be needed. Catherine and Kea will look into available web experts get three quotes for this service by the next meeting. Kea will continue with the City to provide the information they need for their pages.

Daryl reported on the hiring of the new City arborist, Todd Bolton. He has a background in restoration, will start on September 25th, and has been invited to the COE October meeting.

Tim will write a newsletter article about backyard habitat certification process. Catherine is currently working on public outreach for this project.

Catherine is also working on a tree article for the newsletter.

Robert will work on an article about LED retro-fitting. Kea will prepare an article on the County green power rebate.

There will be a public hearing in October regarding the Takoma Metro development. Tim will email Joy Austin-Lane regarding COE's position and find out Council's position.

The Green Festival will be held in DC in mid-October. (10/14-15 at the Convention Center, greenfestivals.org)

Daryl will go before Council on Monday the 18th to request purchase of another green vehicle for the City. Public Works is currently trying a new process that uses nitrogen instead of air in City vehicle tires. Tim proposed that Public Works pursue a partnership with a local gas station to bring the technology to local citizens.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.